

[illegible]

1. A pushbutton user interface for enabling a user to preview the effect of activating a pushbutton, comprising:
 preview sensing means for sensing an input to the pushbutton that does not produce an activation of the pushbutton; and
 preview display means for displaying, in response to the sensed input, a preview indicating the effect of activating the pushbutton.
2. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, wherein the preview sensing means further comprises a force-sensitive resistor.
3. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, wherein the preview sensing means further comprises a potentiometer.
4. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, wherein the preview sensing means further comprises a strain gauge.
5. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, wherein the preview display means further comprises a visual display.
6. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, wherein the preview display means further comprises an audio display.
7. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, wherein the preview display means further comprises a haptic display.
8. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, further comprising an activation sensing means for sensing an input to the pushbutton that produces an activation of the pushbutton.

5 10. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 8, wherein the preview sensing means senses motion of the pushbutton along an axis that is different from an axis along which the activation sensing means senses motion.

12. A pushbutton user interface as in Claim 1, wherein the interface enables a user to preview the effect of activating any of a multiplicity of pushbuttons, the pushbutton user interface further comprising means for identifying to which of the multiplicity of pushbuttons an input has been provided, wherein the preview sensing means is adapted to sense an input to the identified pushbutton that does not produce an activation of the identified pushbutton, and the preview display means is adapted to produce, in response to the sensed input, a display of a preview indicating the effect of activating the identified pushbutton.

30 preview sensing means for sensing an input to the
 mechanical input apparatus that does not produce an
 activation of the mechanical input apparatus; and

preview display means for displaying, in response to the sensed input, a preview indicating the effect of activating the mechanical input apparatus.

. User interface apparatus as including the mechanical input apparatus comprising the preview display means.

. User interface apparatus as including the mechanical input apparatus comprising the preview display means and the activation means.

. A method for enabling a user to activate a pushbutton, comprising sensing an input to the pushbutton, producing an activation of the pushbutton, and displaying, in response to the activation, a preview indicating the effect of activating the pushbutton.

. A computer readable storage medium storing one or more computer programs for previewing the effect of activating one or more mechanical input apparatuses, the one or more computer programs comprising instructions for sensing an input to a mechanical input apparatus that does not produce an activation of the mechanical input apparatus, and displaying, in response to the sensed input, a preview indicating the effect of activating the pushbutton.

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